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NEW METHODS SPEED COAL PRODUCTION

BROAD-FACE CUTTING INCREASES OUTPUT -- Borba, No 126, 29 May 49

The western section of the Trbovlje coal mine, where the broad-face method of cutting has been in use for a long time, has been much more productive than the eastern section, in which the new method has not yet been introduced. The Zenica mine is already operating under the new method, and preparations are under way for introducing it in the Krastnik, Zagorje, and Bogovina mines. The number of mechanized broad faces at Trbovlje will be increased.

With the introduction of the broad-face method, work in the pits can be organized similarly to the chain system. Drilling, transport of coal, loading, and unloading can make the maximum use of mechanization, and the number of workers required can be decreased. Average productivity by the new method is increased by one ton per worker, and when the faces are broadened to 200 or 300 meters, productivity can be increased still more.

The introduction of two-wing cutting in the old pit at the Fakanj mine has increased production by 30 - 40 percent. New methods introduced in the Orasi and Ritice pits of the same mine can increase production by one-third.

Experiments are being made at the Kreka mine toward introducing the broad-face method, demolishing ceilings, and filling up abandoned work sites with mud from other pits, to decrease pressure in the pits and save building material. As the coal seam is near the surface, the coal can be transported directly to the surface by means of belt conveyors.

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The federal Ministry of Mining has evolved a plan for increasing coal production by exploiting new surface deposits. Strip mines are already being exploited in the Kostolac, Banovici, and Kosovo mines. Surface seams at Kreka, Pljevlja, Kolubara, and other mines also can be worked and made to produce coal of as good quality as in underground deposits, while the cost of working them will be three times less.

MECHANIZATION IN A SERBIAN MINE -- Borba, No 129, 1 Jun 49

When the Trepca lead mine began to operate in 1930, at a time when mine engineering was at a high level, no modern machinery was introduced; the foreign exploiters of this mine preferred to use cheap Yugoslav labor. During the war, what little machinery had been acquired was totally destroyed.

Since the liberation, all the work sites at the Trepca mine have been equipped with compressed-air drills.

New conveyor machinery is being installed at the mine. This one machine can transport as much ore as three machines have done in the past. Thus more than 30 workers who used to work on the three old machines can be assigned to other jobs as soon as the new machine is ready.

SMALL LEAD MINE TO BE REOPENED -- Rad, No 121, 23 May 49

Lesak -- Before the war there was a small lead mine at Suvo Rudiste, under the summit of Mount Kopaonik. The mine was destroyed during the war, together with the ropeway by which the ore was transported to the railroad station.

The management of the Trepca mine ordered its best personnel to organize the construction of a ropeway and power line on the site of the Kopaonik mine. Work continued throughout the winter, and now it is almost completed. Cable is being strung on the poles, and the last poles for the power line are being set up. Production will begin as soon as work is completed.

NEW COAL PIT OPENED IN SREM -- Rad, No 122, 24 May 49

A new coal pit was opened during May in the vicinity of the Vrdnik Mine in Ruma Srez. The coal obtained from this pit will be used exclusively for baking brick for the construction of farm buildings on farm workers' cooperatives and for cooperative headquarters. The coal will be worked on three shifts.

Prospecting is in progress for the opening of another pit.

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